

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enabling a portable electronic device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting an interrogation signal from the electronic device;

5 receiving the interrogation signal at an electronic key which is remote from the device;

transmitting a password from the key in response to receipt of the interrogation signal; and

enabling the device in response to receipt of the password.

10 2. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the device comprises a cellular telephone.

3. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the device comprises a PDA.

15 4. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the device comprises a portable computer.

5. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the interrogation signal comprises an RF signal.

6. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 5, wherein the password comprises a modified form of the interrogation signal.

20 7. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the key comprises an RF-ID circuit.

8. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 7, wherein the RF-ID circuit is passive.

25 9. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 7, wherein the RF-ID circuit is active.

10. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 7, wherein the transmitting an interrogation signal step is in response to turning power on to the device.

30 11. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 7, wherein the transmitting an interrogation signal step comprises transmitting a single pulse of predetermined duration.

12. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 7, wherein the enabling step comprises enabling at least one function on the device.

13. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the interrogation signal within about six feet from the device.

14. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 13, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the interrogation signal within about three feet from the device.

15. A method of enabling a portable electronic device as in Claim 14, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the interrogation signal within about eighteen inches from the device.

16. A portable electronic device security system, comprising:
a portable electronic device;
an interrogation signal transmitter associated with the device;
an electronic key remote from the device; and
a password encoded in the key;
wherein the key transmits the password in response to an interrogation signal from the device, and the device is enabled in response to receipt of the password.

17. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device comprises a cellular telephone.

18. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device comprises a PDA.

19. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the portable electronic device comprises a computer.

20. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key comprises a passive RF-Key circuit.

21. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key comprises an active RF-Key circuit

22. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by an article of clothing.

23. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by a wrist band.

24. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 23, wherein the wrist band comprises a wrist watch strap.

5 25. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by a wrist watch.

26. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by a pair of eyeglasses.

10 27. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by a finger ring.

28. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key is carried by a glove.

29. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the interrogation signal comprises an RF signal.

15 30. A portable electronic device security system as in Claim 16, wherein the key carries a password for each of two or more electronic devices.

20 31. A wireless personal preference control system, comprising an RF-Key circuit including an antenna, a memory and at least one preference password therein; a receiver, remote from the RF-Key; and electronics in communication with the receiver for identifying the password and executing a preference in response to receipt of the password by the receiver.

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